

The American Legion

News: Local, State, National

Director G. W. Powell Points to Need of Raising Physical Standard of People of Country

Work on Hospital at Beacon Has Been Held Up Merely Temporarily, Commander Callan Says

The high degree of physical strength which has brought most international sporting championships to American athletes is not typical of the bulk of the population of the United States, according to a statement made by Garland W. Powell, director of the American Legion's national Americanism commission.

The Legion, which is conducting American Education Week, December 1 to 9 inclusive, in co-operation with the National Physical Education Society, has designated December 9 as National Physical Education Day. State, county and city school officials in all states will assist the Legion by holding special athletic exhibitions. The Legion will endeavor to stimulate public interest in the building of playgrounds and other recreation centers designed to keep children off the streets.

"America needs the assistance of all patriots in raising the physical standard of our people," Mr. Powell stated. "The results of the army draft, based on a report made by the Provost Marshal General, showed that 22.4 per cent, or 1,340,623 men, were rejected for general military service on account of physical disabilities. There were 6,500,000 men in the United States Army."

Mr. Powell said that the figures were especially significant when it is realized that all those physically disabled were included in the age group from twenty-one to thirty, the period of life when a man is supposed to be at his best physically. Had the examinations included those over thirty years the percentage of the unfit would be more than doubled, according to Mr. Powell.

"It is the verdict of medical men that most of the defects listed as the causes for rejection could have been prevented by adequate physical educational programs," Mr. Powell stated. "One authority states: 1. Heart disease could be prevented by proper strengthening of the heart through physical activities, by proper removal of physical defects, such as bad tonsils and infected teeth. 2. Malformation of the limbs may be prevented to some extent by proper physical activities. 3. Defective vision oftentimes could be prevented by exercise. 4. Under size would not exist in many cases if there were physical activity and proper instruction in regard to nutrition, preparation of food and the like. 5. Hernia undoubtedly in the majority of cases would be prevented by the development of abdominal muscles. 6. Instruction in care of the feet and the selection of shoes will prevent a large proportion of the flat feet."

The Legion's purpose is to raise the general standard of physical development as an essential feature of the nation's future, Mr. Powell stated.

Will Resume Work on Chelsea
State Commander Albert S. Callan has announced that construction work on the Chelsea Hospital at Beacon, N. Y., has not been discontinued, but merely temporarily held up. He said that Brigadier General Charles E. Sawyer has stated that the institution will contain 500 beds instead of 250 as originally planned. The site has been approved by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

Will Adjust Claims by Christmas
Every post in the Albany district has been requested by State Commander Callan to report at once any cases of disabled veterans who are awaiting adjustment of claims in the United States Veterans' Bureau. Major Lent, who is in charge of the local bureau, has promised the Legion every possible co-operation in the proper adjustment of claims, and it is the intention of Commander Callan to have as many claims as possible adjusted before Christmas. Should the plan prove successful in the Albany district, it will be extended throughout the state. Carl W. Subhoff, the service officer at state headquarters, is making every effort to clear as many cases as possible before the holiday season. Claims are being received and adjusted by him each day. All veterans who have cases pending should communicate with the post commanders or with the state service officer.

Lafayette Post Elects
General Lafayette Police Post of New York City has elected the following officers for the new year: Edward C. Moran, commander; Thomas Nielson, first vice-commander; William Robinson, second vice-commander; Rose Fay, third vice-commander; Louis Hunt, treasurer; Frederick Norman, financial secretary; Edmond Moore, secretary; Franklin Travers, chairman of the executive committee. This post is composed entirely of uniformed members of the New York City Police Department and is the largest post in the entire state.

Bronx Commander Active
Bronx County Commander A. L. Ward is continuing his visitation of the various Bronx posts, having attended four post meetings in the last week. On Monday last he installed the newly elected officers of the Wilford A. Belmont Post and performed a similar duty at Arthur R. Boyce Post. During the week he addressed two meetings of Dan Talon and Schuyler posts.

Commander Ward has announced the following appointments of committee chairmen for the county: County Welfare Committee, Harry V. Villiers; County Activities Committee, John F. Bolyard; Legislative Committee, Timothy F. Driscoll; Finance Committee, William J. Keary.

49th Infantry Post Meeting
Forty-ninth Infantry Post, 522 of the American Legion, will hold a regular meeting to-morrow at the McAlpin Hotel.

Next January 26 the post will hold its third annual ball at the McAlpin Hotel. A souvenir program is being prepared and this affair is expected to surpass even the other successful dances held by this post.

New York County Committee To-night
New York County committee meeting this evening at the Hotel Pennsylvania. In addition to the notices to the county committee delegates, invitations have been extended to post officers and some of their members to attend this meeting.

Posts Receive Quotas
In connection with 1923 membership of New York County, a number of

Legion Protests Plan To Liberate Bergdoll

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 26.—Aroused by the opinion of attorneys on both sides that Erwin C. Bergdoll, rich Philadelphia slacker, is to be released from the Federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he is serving a four-year term, American Legion officials representing Missouri and Kansas to-night wired strong protests to Washington.

Anthony P. Nugent, representing the Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who has investigated the case, said that the protest to the Department of Justice included the demand that Erwin's brother, Grover Bergdoll, be returned from Germany and jailed.

"It can be done any time the government wants to," Nugent declared.

A mass meeting of ex-service men will be held here Tuesday night to act on the case. Bergdoll is seeking his release in the Federal Court. Should he be freed the case will be carried to the Supreme Court, District Attorney W. H. Harvey declared to-night.

posts already have sent to county headquarters for their quota of 1923 treasurer's report forms. Those posts which have not as yet received these are requested to call for same as soon as possible. Nineteen hundred and twenty-three dues should be forwarded to the newly elected county treasurer, Frank B. Guest, 85 West 103d Street, New York City.

Curran Heads Ordnance Post
Army Ordnance of Manhattan Post, 9, held an election of officers at the Hotel St. Andrew, Seventy-second Street and Broadway, with this result: Commander, John Curran; first vice-commander, Charles Van Zandt; second vice-commander, Clarence Pitts; third vice-commander, Fred Bull; adjutant, Berthold G. Sack; finance officer, Emilio Conti; auditors, Bea Sloane, Guy Johnson; executive committee, Onias Humphrey, Harry O'Neil, Joseph H. San.

Lovell Post Patronesses
The patronesses for the winter dance of Lieutenant Laurence C. Lovell Post announced are Mrs. Fred S. Lyke, Mrs. Austin Ludlam, Mrs. Percy C. Magnus, Mrs. Albert Quackenbush, Mrs. Frederick C. Lea, Mrs. Emily Dail, Mrs. Luther M. Werner, Mrs. Lucy G. Magnus, Mrs. Henry Barlow, Mrs. Frank P. Lovell and Mrs. Rudolph R. Rosa. The dance is to be held December 15, at the Hotel Bossert.

New Officers for Boyce Post
The annual election of officers of

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A. R. Boyce Post, 251, American Legion, Bronx County, resulted as follows: Commander, H. Plate; vice-commander, S. Meyer; adjutant, S. H. B. Gilliland; treasurer, R. Wood; executive committee, V. F. Smith, E. Einhorn and F. Tunney; delegate to county committee, W. F. Tait; alternate, V. F. Smith.

Thanksgiving Dance Arranged
A Thanksgiving Eve dance will be held by the Arthur Viens Post, 704, American Legion of Bronx County at the clubhouse, 2158 Bathgate Avenue, next Wednesday.

The dance will be under the direction of the newly appointed house committee composed of Peter J. Meehan, chairman; Marty Maloney, Robert J. Petty, Herbert D. Richmond, Charles F. Logue and Lester Sullivan.

Woodhaven Reception and Dance
A 1923 model touring car will be awarded to the lucky person at the fourth annual reception and dance of Woodhaven Post, 118, to be held at Trommer's Hall, Bushwick Avenue and Conway Street, Brooklyn, Thanksgiving Eve. This event marks the close of a successful year for this post. Its membership has increased during the year to over 428. The proceeds are to go toward the liquidation of the second mortgage on the post's headquarters, 1659 Woodhaven Boulevard, Woodhaven. Commander Harry F. Sullivan invited all legionnaires to visit the clubhouse when in the vicinity of Woodhaven.

Texas Hold-Out on Wholesale Turkeys Boosts N. Y. Prices

Birds Will Cost 62c a Pound; Raisers Finally Cut Bid Too Late for Shipment; Plenty Other Fowl Here

Instead of paying only 50 cents a pound for the turkey for Thanksgiving Day, New Yorkers will pay from 60 to 62 cents a pound because of a Texas farm-bloc hold-out for higher wholesale prices, P. Q. Foy, food expert, said yesterday. The Texas raisers wanted a wholesale price of 48 cents a pound for their birds and local dealers refused to buy. As a result, although the Texans wired last week they would take 38 cents a pound, New Yorkers are stuck for the higher prices, as the birds cannot get here in time for the big event. The only cheerful ray in the situation is that this tremendous stock of Texas turkeys will be on the market after Thanksgiving, which will probably result in lower prices. About 80,000 birds arrived yesterday.

but not one of their drumsticks will stay in New York, as out-of-town dealers invariably buy up this stock. A shortage in refrigerator cars also helped tighten up the situation by preventing the Ohio farmers from getting their stock to the city.

The situation is not, however, Mr. Foy said, so bad for those who are unconventional enough to forego turkey for something else. There is a plentiful supply of chickens, ducklings, geese, turkeys, venison, South American and European grouse, partridge and quail, all at lower prices than turkeys are likely to be. Milk-fed chickens average 40 to 45 cents a pound, and fatted ducklings and geese are running at 38 to 40 cents.

While no definite statement comes that turkeys may slump before next Thursday an official of Harbichs & Co. said it was his opinion there would be a falling off in price.

For those who want and intend to get turkey the day's meal which includes cranberries, celery, potatoes, salads and all the "fixins" should not cost over \$8.15 for six adult people, Mr. Foy said.

Hunter Shoots Self by Accident

CORNING, N. Y., Nov. 26.—Raymond Wolcott, of Caton, accidentally shot himself this afternoon while hunting in a field near his home. Wolcott's seven-year-old son and a neighbor were with him at the time of the accident. He lived only a few minutes.

Amnesty Seekers to Hold Memorial for Magon

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—The death of the first political prisoner serving a sentence in a Federal jail for expressions of opinion will be the occasion for a memorial mass meeting to be held in Washington under the auspices of a special committee of arrangements. It will also be the occasion of special picketing at the White House gates on Monday, the joint amnesty committee announced to-day.

"The death last Tuesday of Ricardo Flores Magon, a citizen of Mexico, serving twenty-one years in Leavenworth for an article which he wrote in his paper, 'Regeneration,' has rallied the amnesty forces to redoubled efforts for the release of the remaining sixty-two prisoners," said the committee.

"Of all the political prisoners still imprisoned in Leavenworth and other Federal penitentiaries Magon was one of the most widely known and loved. Owing to the fact that he had been very ill for the last year and that he was also going blind special appeals were made repeatedly for his release. To these appeals the Department of Justice and President Harding turned deaf ears. The Department of Justice announced that according to reports from the prison his health was satisfactory. The President refused six times to see Magon's attorney, who wished to bring the case directly to his attention."

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